

## **ATTACHMENT #1**

### **BUDGET REQUEST FORMS: Core Decision Item, New Decision Item, and Program Description**

The budget request forms are the key forms used in the budget process to explain and document core and new decision item requests. When properly prepared, they will become the primary source of information for the Governor and the General Assembly in making funding decisions. Information should justify, completely and concisely, funding of the core and new decision item requests. Facts presented should clearly show how the items support essential functions. Each element of the justification must be easy to read and understand. Please note that the purpose of the budget request forms is to provide information for decision making. The style and approach should therefore be analytical rather than promotional. Good data, sound logic, and solid back-up information are needed to properly justify a request.

Legislators and other users of the budget forms have requested that the forms be as consistent as possible across departments. Therefore, departments should refrain from altering the Excel templates. Also, legislators have requested that the font size used on the budget forms be size 10 or greater.

There may be cases in which it does not make sense to fill in all the information requested on the budget request form or where it is simpler to complete a single form for similar requests across budgeting units. For example, multiple forms should **not** be used for pay plan decision items, instead complete one form for your department. Other examples of appropriate combined forms include: implementation of a new program that crosses multiple budgeting units; multiple transfer appropriations from a single fund or for similar purposes; and cost of caseload growth that crosses multiple budgeting units. Budget and Planning staff are available to discuss such exceptions for specific decision items or groups of decision items in advance of your budget submission. Please contact your assigned budget analyst if you wish to discuss these issues.

Please contact Marcella Armstrong (751-2345), in the Division of Budget and Planning, for electronic copies of the form templates.